

to believe it. But I'll never  
believe that he or anyone  
could escape from Canius's  
long-winded anecdotes.

Martial, III, lxix

Since you write all your epigrams  
in language that's perfectly chaste,  
and no indecencies ever  
get into your poems, I'm full  
of admiration and praise.  
No one writes more respectably  
than you. On the other hand,  
I've never written a page  
without some obscenities.

Let good-for-nothing young men  
and easy-going girls read me --  
and old lechers, and men in trouble  
with their mistresses. Your poems --  
so worthy of respect, Cosconius,  
such models of propriety --  
are perfect reading for children  
and innocent young girls.

-- Barriss Mills

West Lafayette, Indiana

Aunt Mary and Aunt Magnolia

When Aunt Mary talked with animals and trees,  
the chickens telling her it wasn't worth their while to lay  
the market being what it was,  
the trees complaining of their thirst  
and the people who bothered them:  
we all thought, "How queer!"

Aunt Magnolia, ashamed of her sister,  
spoke with God on the matter.

-- Robert A. Davies

Forest Grove, Oregon